

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CI

SUBJECT: W/W A MISSING AMCIT IN CHILE, CHARLES E. HORMAN

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ROGERS

1. FROM TELECON WE UNDERSTAND DEPT CONCERNED OVER REPORT THAT EMBOFF ASKED MRS HORMAN ABOUT MARITAL SITUATION.

2. THE PERSON WHO ASKED MRS. HORMAN WAS A MILGROUP OFFICER WHO ACCIDENTLY MET CHARLES HORMAN ON SEPT. 15, TWO DAYS PRIOR TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE. THE OFFICER WAS DRIVING FROM VINA DEL MAR TO SANTIAGO ON SEPT. 15 AND AGREED TO ASSIST TWO PERSONS IDENTIFIED AT THAT TIME ONLY AS TWO STRANDED AMCITS. IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE THEM TO SANTIAGO IT BECAME KNOWN THAT CHARLES HORMAN AND A YOUNG LADY (WHO WAS NOT MRS. HORMAN) HAD SPENT ONE WEEK IN THE SAME ROOM IN A VINA HOTEL. THE MILGROUP OFFICER AS A GESTURE TO ASSIST THE STRANDED AMERICANS, ASKED THEM TO PHONE HIM IF THEY HAD ANY ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS. ON SEPT. 19 THE YOUNG LADY PHONED AND ADVISED THE MILGROUP OFFICER THAT CHARLES HORMAN HAD DISAPPEARED ON SEPT. 17. SHE REQUESTED HIS ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. SHE WAS ASKED TO COME TO THE MILGROUP OFFICE. SHE DID SO ON SEPT. 20, ALONG WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, THEN IDENTIFIED AS MRS. HORMAN. THE SAME MILGROUP OFFICER HAS SINCE PROVIDED COURTESIES AND ASSISTANCE TO MRS. HORMAN IN HER EFFORTS TO HELP LOCATE HER HUSBAND. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE HORMAN THE OFFICER DID ASK MRS. HORMAN IF SHE AND

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HER HUSBAND HAD MARITAL DIFFICULTIES. THE QUERY WAS MADE IN

THE LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND ONLY WITH A DESIRE TO EXPLORE OTHER POSSIBILITIES OF WHERE HORMAN MIGHT BE. WHEN MRS. HORMAN ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE, THE OFFICER DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER. MRS. HORMAN DID NOT APPEAR TO BE UPSET BY THE QUESTION.

3. FYI ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT BRING UP THIS INFO IN ANY JUDGMENTAL SENSE, WE DO HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO FOLLOW LEADS WHICH COULD HELP US FIND HORMAN. WHEN HE RETURNED TO SANTIAGO, HE DID NOT GO HOME, BUT RATHER CHECKED INTO THE RIVIERA HOTEL. ACCORDING TO A FRIEND, WHO COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY THIS SHOULD BE SO, HORMAN WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE HIS WIFE, BUT SAID SHE KNEW HE WOULD BE CHECKING INTO THAT HOTEL. END FYI.

4. CONSUL SPOKE ON TELEPHONE WITH MRS. HORMAN AFTERNOON OCT. 3 AND EXCHANGED INFO WITH HER ON COMMON EFFORTS TO LOCATE HER HUSBAND. CONSUL ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT SHE HAD REPORTED SHE FELT HER LIFE TO BE IN DANGER. SHE REPLIED THAT SHE FELT SAFE AND THAT IT WAS HER FATHER, WITH WHOM SHE HAD SPOKEN BY PHONE, WHO HAD FELT SHE WAS IN DANGER. CONSUL ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A VICE CONSUL TO MEET WITH HER AFTERNOON OF OCT. 3 TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE LEADS ON HER HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE.

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